



1852 Fescue Street SE
Albany, Oregon 97322

AllansCoffee.com
1.800.926.6886



July 2nd, 2020

Official statement of Allan's Coffee and Tea

Like the majority of small businesses in our country right now our main goal is maintaining the health and safety of our customers and employees while keeping our doors open and all our employees working.

Yesterday, July 1, 2020, a statewide mandate was issued by Governor Kate Brown that face coverings should be worn in public indoor spaces. As a business, we prepared to responsibly comply with this mandate by distributing an internal policy to our employees outlining the procedures necessary to fulfill this mandate. Signs were hung in the cafes instructing patrons that face coverings were required per the governor's mandate.

We were aware of the divisive climate during this time and the fact that face coverings have become a politicized issue so we expected that our employees may receive some backlash from customers regarding this new policy. We were fully prepared to support our employees. However, we did not expect that within the first hour of the state mandate four uniformed State Police Officers would defy the orders, enter our café without wearing a face mask and refuse requests to wear one. The situation became more distressing when one of the officers used profanity to disparage the Governor and express his political opinion that the Governor could not infringe on his civil liberties and that businesses need not worry about complying with the order because law enforcement would not be enforcing the order. Customers expressed their opinion that if the officers were not wearing a face covering that they too should not be required to wear a face covering. The four Oregon State Police Officers put our small business in a terrible position yesterday by openly defying the orders which we as a business are responsible for upholding.

I will state clearly that this issue should have never become a political or divisive issue. Very simply we as a small business were choosing to follow the health and safety guidelines of the CDC and the majority of the medical community as well as complying with a state order issued by our Governor. Unfortunately, the State Police made it exceedingly difficult for us to do that. After the incident occurred, we immediately reached out to the Corvallis Police Department as well as Oregon State Police regarding the incident. After much thought, we decided to release the information regarding this incident. During our follow up interaction with the Oregon State Police, we felt that the issue was taken too lightly and we received no information regarding concrete steps that would be taken to address this incident with the officers involved. As a business we have supported the law enforcement community and even hosted several "coffee with a cop" gatherings to encourage interaction with local law enforcement. We will continue to support our community including our law enforcement community and believe that speaking up regarding a



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disturbing incident should not be seen as a lack of support for our law enforcement community.

We are saddened that the issue of face coverings has seemed to further divide a community and a state that is already divided and that the backlash from this issue will ultimately fall on the backs of small businesses. We hope that Oregon can peacefully comply with the Governor's mandate and work towards getting our state back to where it was.

We ask if you have comments or questions regarding this issue that you please do so respectfully through feedback@allanscoffee.com and remember that our employees are working hard to follow our company policy and the Governor's mandate. We are working hard to stay compliant with the Governor's order so that our business along with so many others can remain open.

Respectfully,

Robert and Kathryn Morgan